

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an exterior body panel for use on automotive vehicles, comprising:
- providing a decorative layer;
 - forming a laminate by providing a thermoplastic material on a top side and on a bottom side of the decorative layer, at least one of the top side and bottom side being substantially transparent;
 - heating the laminate;
 - conforming the laminate into a desired shape; and
 - cooling the laminate;
 - wherein the thermoplastic material on the side opposite to the transparent layer, when cooled, is sufficiently rigid to form an exterior body panel for attachment to the exterior surface of a vehicle frame.
2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the decorative layer is flexible.
3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the laminate is pressed in vacuum molding die machine comprising an upper die and a lower die.
4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein a vacuum conforms the laminate to one of the upper die and the lower die.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of making vacuum formed exterior body panels, comprising:
- providing a layer of decorative material;
 - depositing on one side of the decorative material a mixture of epoxy and resin which when cured forms a plastic layer that is substantially transparent;

depositing on an opposite side of the decorative material a mixture of epoxy and resin which when cured forms a plastic layer;

heating the decorative material and the plastic layers;

pressing the decorative material, the top plastic layer and the bottom plastic layer in a vacuum mold to form a laminate; and

cooling the pressed laminate;

wherein the plastic layer on the side opposite to the transparent plastic layer, when cooled, is sufficiently rigid to form an exterior body panel for attachment to the exterior surface of a vehicle frame.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the layer of decorative material is flexible.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the vacuum mold comprises an upper die and a lower die.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, further comprising removing air from the vacuum mold in forming the molded laminate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the providing a decorative layer includes providing a decorative layer formed from one of woven fabric and screening.

13. (New) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the providing a decorative layer includes providing a decorative layer formed from one of woven fabric and screening.

14. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the thermoplastic material to the decorative layer by spraying.

15. (New) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the depositing of the mixture of epoxy and resin on both sides of the decorative material includes depositing the mixture of epoxy and resin by spraying.

16. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the thermoplastic material to the decorative layer by applying pre-formed sheets of thermoplastic material.

17. (New) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the depositing of the mixture of epoxy and resin on both sides of the decorative material includes depositing the mixture of epoxy and resin by applying pre-formed sheets of epoxy and resin.

18. (New) A method of providing an exterior body panel on an automotive vehicles, comprising:

providing a decorative layer;

forming a laminate by providing a thermoplastic material on a top side and on a bottom side of the decorative layer, at least one of the top side and bottom side being substantially transparent;

heating the laminate;

conforming the laminate into a desired shape;

cooling the laminate; and

attaching the laminate directly to the exterior of the frame of an automotive vehicle by attaching the thermoplastic material that is on the side of the laminate opposite to the transparent material directly to the exterior of the frame of an automotive vehicle.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the providing a decorative layer includes providing a decorative layer formed from one of woven fabric and screening.

20. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the thermoplastic material to the decorative layer by spraying.

21. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the thermoplastic material to the decorative layer by applying pre-formed sheets of thermoplastic material.

A 22. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming a laminate by providing a thermoplastic material includes providing a mixture of epoxy and resin.

23. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the conforming the laminate into a desired shape includes pressing the laminate in a vacuum mold.
